

V. REMARKS

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hogstrom (U.S. Patent No. 3,797,456) in view of Arvintz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,565,543). Claim 7 is canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17, 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shriver et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,606,942) in view of Arvintz, Horvath et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,816,165) and Mitsuji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,060,554). Claims 17, 18, 21 and 22 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As indicated in the Office Action, claims 23-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims are amended in this manner and are therefore allowable over the prior art. Specifically, claim 23 is amended to include the features of independent claim 17; claim 24 is amended to include the features of claim 18 and to depend from claim 23; claim 25 is amended to include the features of claim 21 and to depend from claim 23; and, claim 26 is amended to include the features of claim 22 and to depend from claim 24.

Rejoinder of withdrawn claims 1-16 is respectfully requested. As indicated above, claim 23 an independent apparatus claim, is in condition for allowance. Claim 1, an independent method claim, is amended to include all of the features of independent apparatus claim 23. Thus, claims 1 and 23 are appropriately linked by amendment. Rejoinder of withdrawn claims 1-16 to the application is respectfully requested.

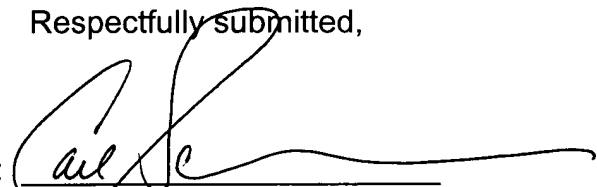
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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